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Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk
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REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
December 5, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

John Read Middle School Community Room

On YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJhKa9oQfe3lydov_I-EvA

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Belfatto (arrived at 7:20 pm), Bendish, Fine, Guarniere, Pepe, Sadana, Worosz

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrafani

Others: 4 members of the staff and public, and the recording secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Dr. McKinnon asked for nominations for Chairperson of the Redding Board of Education; C. Sadana nominated Laura Worosz. Dr. McKinnon distributed ballots to board members and then read the results which were six votes for L. Worosz.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As the elected Chairperson, L. Worosz took charge of the meeting and asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson; A. Guarniere nominated C. Sadana. L. Worosz distributed ballots to board members and then read the results which were six votes for C. Sadana. She then asked for nominations for Secretary; C. Sadana nominated A. Guarniere. L. Worosz distributed ballots to board members and then read the results which were six votes for A. Guarniere.

AGENDA CHANGE

L. Worosz said that she wanted a new Agenda Item, Committee Appointments, added to be Item IX. E. Hearing no objections, L. Worosz said the new Agenda Item would be added.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda. (Sadana, Bendish). Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

C. Sadana said welcome to the new Board of Education members.

L. Worosz said welcome to new board members and encouraged them to ask questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. McKinnon welcomed the new Board of Education members.

Redding Elementary School Principal, Melissa Lobrosciano, read from her prepared report, highlights included: the annual Veteran's Day celebration that took place on November 10; the newly created acronym PAWS - Positive Attitude, Act Responsibly, Work Hard and Spread Kindness - that was created by the Climate Committee; and, the chorus will perform at Meadow Ridge for their community.

M. Labrosciano also reported that past RES Principal, Bob Bernstein, has passed away.

John Read Middle School Principal, Jennifer Desmarais, read from her prepared report, highlights included: ILA teacher Danielle Lingo was one of 16 semifinalists for the 2024 CT Teacher of the Year; art students from 6th and 7th grades recently went on a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Math Information Night was held on November 6; and, motivational speaker David Flood presented his program, "The Power of Dignity, Respect and Compassion," during student assemblies on November 8.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, distributed an update report on the content areas identified in the 5-year plan in the phase of curriculum development. She said the report would put on their radar some things that are likely to find their way into the budget proposal for next year, such as professional development to support the math curriculum. She also updated the BOE on the status of the reading waiver from the State of Connecticut, saying: the District was granted a transitional, conditional waiver that approved the phonemic awareness and phonics components, but not the vocabulary, fluency and comprehension components; additional core programs were added to the State's list of approved programs; the District now has more options with which to make decisions; and, the District has until 2025-2026 to have a reading program in place.

Director of Finance, Operations & Technology, Sara Scrofani, distributed the Budget Object Summary and the Employee Benefit Report to BOE members and explained the new format of the reports. She added that the District is on track with spending and that we are where we should be at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C. Sadana said that there is a DEI Task Force meeting on December 19 and that all board members are welcome to attend.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2024 REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING CALENDAR

Dr. McKinnon proposed that the February budget workshop be moved to the same night as the regular BOE meeting, just with a start time of earlier in the evening.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the 2024 Meeting Calendar as presented, with the exception of the Thursday, February 8 Budget Workshop being moved to Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m. (Sadana, Guarniere). Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: STUDENTS ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR 2024-2025

Dr. McKinnon distributed a student enrollment report, and explained the use of Prowda and his methods for the District's enrollment projections. He went through the report and the enrollment numbers and said that the considerations now are whether to add another section of kindergarten and 5th grade. Dr. McKinnon said that he will present staffing when presenting the budget, and that there is a correlation between enrollment and the budget.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: STAFF REPORT

Dr. McKinnon said that this item needed to be tabled until the next BOE meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2024 AASA/NCA CONFERENCE

Dr. McKinnon explained that per his contract, he needed BOE approval to attend the national conference of school superintendents.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education approve the attendance of Dr. McKinnon to the 2024 AASA/NCE Conference. (Sadana, Bendish). Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

L. Worosz read through the committees and the number of board members needed for the committees; BOE members volunteered for the following assignments:

Curriculum - A. Guarniere
Facilities -C. Sadana, M. Bendish
Bargaining - C. Fine, C. Sadana
Calendar - B. Pepe
DEI - A. Guarniere
Food Services - J. Belfatto
Transportation - M. Bendish
Policy - B. Pepe

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (Sadana, Belfatto). Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda Guarniere
Secretary, Redding Board of Education

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota